

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 05078 011412Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ERDA-05 ERDE-00 NSCE-00 FEA-01

ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

EB-08 NRC-05 DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2438

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DEPARTMENT PASS TO DOE, MR. MCDONOUGH AND NRC, J. LAFLEUR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDEN'S POWER BOARD TO PRESENT PLAN FOR SAFE STORAGE OF
RADIOACTIVE WASTES

1. ON NOVEMBER 30 I CALLED ON JONAS NORRBY, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SWEDEN'S STATE POWER BOARD (VATTENFALL) FOR A BRIEFING ON THE BOARD'S ACTIVITIES AND THE OUTLOOK FOR SWEDEN'S POWER NEEDS. NO SURPRISINGLY, NORRBY SAW NO OTHER WAY FOR SWEDEN TO MEET FUTURE ENERGY NEEDS EXCEPT THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER. THE INTERESTING FEATURE OF OUR TALK WAS NORRBY'S REVELATION THAT ON DECEMBER 7 THE POWER BOARD WILL PRESENT A PLAN FOR THE SAFE STORAGE OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES TO THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY FOR SUBSEQUENT SUBMISSION TO THE RIKSDAG. NORRBY AND HIS COLLEAGUES BELIEVE THE PLAN TO BE FOOLPROOF AND FEASIBLE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE POWER BOARD WILL SUBMIT ITS APPLICATION FOR THE START-UP OF RINGHALS 3. A NORDIC SYMPOSIUM WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 14-15, AT WHICH THE STORAGE PLAN WILL BE DISCUSSED; THE EMBASSY WILL BE INVITED. NORRBY ALSO TOLD ME THAT NEXT MARCH THE POWER BOARD HOPES TO COMPLETE THE DOCUMENTATION FOR AN EQUALLY

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GOOD PLAN FOR THE STORAGE OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL.

2. COMMENT. THE POWER BOARD'S MOVE IS CLOSELY TIED TO THE CURRENT DEBATE ON NUCLEAR POWER. THE BOARD BELIEVES ITS STORAGE SCHEME WILL ANSWER THE CONDITIONS BILL'S REQUIREMENTS. (ONE OFFICIAL IN FACT SAID THE ONLY GOOD RESULT OF THE CONDITIONS BILL WAS

THAT ITS PASSAGE SPEEDED UP CONSIDERATION OF RADIO-ACTIVE WASTE STORAGE.) IT COULD WELL PROVE A KEY ARGUMENT IN THE APPROVAL OF THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF BARSEBACK 2.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT A COMPROMISE ON NUCLEAR POWER MAY BE IN THE MAKING WHICH WOULD CONSIST OF CONTINUATION OF OPERATION OF BARSEBACK 2, THE LOADING OF RINGHALS 3, A LIMIT OF TEN ON NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS, AND THE FUTURE STORAGE OF SPENT FUEL IN SWEDEN WITHOUT REPROCESSING. IF THE POWER BOARD'S PRESENTATION NEXT WEEK (AND IN MARCH) IS CONVINCING, IT COULD WELL EASE THE WAY TO A COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD GET THE FALLDIN GOVERNMENT OFF THE PRECARIOUS PERCH WHERE IT FINDS ITSELF ON THIS ISSUE. KENNEDY-MINOTT

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